

# R E A S O N S

HUMBLY OFFERED

To the Right Honourable the House of Lords,

Why the Act, Intituled, *An Act for the Relief of Creditors, by making Composition with their Debtors, in case two Thirds in Number and Value do agree*, should not be Repealed.

*K. England. - Parl. - House of Lords. [Petitions and Addresses.]*

**I**t is humbly conceived, That this Act did not pass but on great Reasons, and on mature Considerations for the Enacting thereof; and it is also humbly conceived, that the same Reasons do still remain why it should not be repealed.

It must be confessed, that under this Act (as under any Act of so general a Nature) several Abuses and Perjuries have been committed; but that can be no reason, why (for the faults of some few) others, for whom chiefly this Act was made, should have no Benefit by it; and, it must be granted, that there is no General Rule, but hath some Exception.

It is humbly conceived, this Act was originally made in consideration of the Destroying the *Mint* and *Fryars*, and other Privileged Places, and in Charity that several Hundred poor Families, who inhabited there, might not utterly starve and perish; and also in favour of many Tradesmen and others, who had failed and were forced, before the 17th. of November 1696, for fear of being Arrested and thrown into Prison, to list themselves Volunteers, and go into his Majesty's Service both by Sea and Land.

Now most of those Persons, who have had any benefit by the fore-mentioned Act, are such, who have reserved Money wherewith to make Composition with their Creditors, or else had Friends to support and be their Securities, or Lend them Money to make their Agreements.

And such is the Selfish and Covetuous Disposition of most Creditors, that it is difficult and hard to makethem truly sensible of the Condition and Necessities of their Debtors, and they had rather let their insolvent Debtors perish and rot in Prison, then in a Christian-like and Charitable manner discharge and free them; so that most of those Indigent Persons, for whom the Act was intended, not having ready Money to offer their Creditors, are still Undischarged, and forced to withdraw themselves from their usual Places of Abode, or to lye in Prison; whereby the Government doth not only lose the benefit of their Labour, many of them being Ingenious Persons and Handy-crafts-men; but several Parishes are chargeable with the Maintainance of their Wives and Families.

The next Persons, who have most need (as is humbly conceived and offered to Your Lordships great Wisdoms Consideration) and as yet have had no Benefit by this Act, are those Persons, who have been Traders, or others, who by Misfortune were reduced to want, and were forced, for shelter, before the Commencement of the said Act, with the hazard of their Lives, to serve His Majesty both by Sea and Land, of whom there are some Thousands; and many of them being disbanded and out of Pay, are already Arrested and thrown into Prison by severity of their Creditors, and many others dare not return to their Families and Homes for fear of Arrests and like hard Usage.

*It is therefore humbly Offered, That Your Lordships in Your great Clemency, duly weighing the deplorable Conditions of those many People, who have yet need, and most Reason to receive Benefit by the aforesaid Act, would be pleas'd to consider either to prolong the time before it be Repealed, or else to make some Clause or Proviso therein, whereby such poor Persons, who had not Money to speed and perform their Business, as others have done, and those who have hazarded their Lives to serve their King and Country, may be freed and released from the Misfortune of Debt they labour under, and not that the Faults and Abuses pretended to be Objected against some, should be construed to the Prejudice of others, and be the occasion of Repealing this Act; especially since the Act it self doth very well and sufficiently provide for all Abuses that shall be Committed. And the same Reasons might be objected to Repeal any Law (for that there are Persons who abuse it) as well as this, the Penalties being of the same nature, and as great as in any Laws of this kind whatsoever.*

Many other Reasons might be recited, but these are humbly offered as the only Reasons for the making the said Act and continuance thereof, and otherwise it would be a great Discouragement on like Necessity (which is hoped may never again happen) for His Majesty and the Country to have Persons freely and willingly to serve them.



**The Seamen and Soldiers Cafe,  
Humbly offered to the Lords Spi-  
ritual and Temporal, why the  
Act, Two Thirds Number and Value  
should not be Repealed.**

